

Consultation Question 16: Do you have any views or comments on our overall preliminary conclusion on acceptability of the design?

The heritage significance of places derives not only from their physical presence, but also from other attributes including their relationship with their surroundings, particularly their setting. This principle is enshrined in legislation (*Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*, sections 16(2) and 66(1)) and in national planning policy through *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*. PPS5, in paragraph HE8.1, states that: '*The effect of an application on the significance of such a heritage asset **or its setting** is a material consideration in determining the application*' (emphasis added). Our reason for providing comment to this consultation is the possible impact of new nuclear power plants on the setting of heritage assets.

Intelligent and sensitive design can greatly reduce the impact of a new structure on the setting of local heritage assets (see *Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide*, paragraph 121) and we would urge that this is a consideration in the design of new nuclear power plants. We believe that this is particularly important given the lengthy life-spans of the proposed structures and that they may well be placed in sensitive locations (i.e. have a significant impact on the local landscape, being viewed from considerable distances).

It is worth emphasising we are not advocating a marked departure from previous approaches. Some of the first generation nuclear plants had a high degree of architectural and landscape input. In particular we would point to Trawsfynydd power station in Gwynedd which was designed by Sir Basil Spence, architect of Coventry Cathedral, with garden designer Dame Sylvia Crowe as landscape consultant.

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